

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Justification and Approval

For

Other Than Full and Open Competition

1. **Contracting Activity:** *Department of Veterans Affairs, VISN 11, Battle Creek Medical Center, Justification for Other Than Full and Open Competition for 515-13-3-155-0030.*
2. **Nature and/or Description of the Action Being Processed:** *The Battle Creek Medical Center is requesting to sole source a Fire Detection and Alarm System through Siemens as a portion of a firm fixed price generator replacement project. There is a station wide Fire Detection and Alarm System to which the new controls and devices must be tied into and must communicate with.*
3. **Description of Supplies/Services Required to Meet the Agency's Needs:**
We are requesting approval to sole source fire alarm equipment/components supplied by Siemens. New components must be compatible with the existing system. Estimated dollar value: \$25,000.00. The required delivery date will coincide with the construction of Emergency Generator Replacement. Reference Section 28 31 00 Fire Detection and Alarm
4. **Statutory Authority Permitting Other than Full and Open Competition:**
 - ☒ (1) Only One Responsible Source and No Other Supplies or Services Will Satisfy Agency Requirements per FAR 6.302-1;
 - ☐ (2) Unusual and Compelling Urgency per FAR 6.302-2;
 - ☐ (3) Industrial Mobilization, Engineering, Developmental or Research Capability or Expert Services per FAR 6.302-3;
 - ☐ (4) International Agreement per FAR 6.302-4
 - ☐ (5) Authorized or Required by Statute FAR 6.302-5;
 - ☐ (6) National Security per FAR 6.302-6;
 - ☐ (7) Public Interest per FAR 6.302-7;
5. **Demonstration that the Contractor's Unique Qualifications or Nature of the Acquisition Requires the Use of the Authority Cited Above (applicability of authority):**
It is our desire to expand the existing system in order to maintain one cohesive working system on the campus. The fire alarm system is complex and unique to VAMC BC. Many of the components are proprietary to the system. We are confident in the quality of the products and confident it meets the campus requirements. Only Siemens trained and certified technicians can make modifications to the existing system, and only Siemens technicians can make programming changes to the system. Nuisance problems/faults/alarms due to different systems trying to communicate with each other would be eliminated. Engineering feels sole sourcing this product is the only correct way to complete with this project.
6. **Description of Efforts Made to ensure that offers are solicited from as many potential sources as deemed practicable:** *We have made every effort to provide drawings and specifications that are open to all potential suppliers. Due to the proprietary nature of electronics and system programming, systems from multiple manufacturers and suppliers are not compatible. The field devices and*

controllers must be able to communicate with the system. Our experience and investigation has indicated that other supplies are not compatible with the existing Fire Detection and Alarm System provided by Siemens. Furthermore, Siemens will not allow any other manufacturer to connect with their system. Only Siemens trained and certified technicians can make modifications to the existing system, and only Siemens technicians can make programming changes to the system.

7. Determination by the Contracting Officer that the Anticipated Cost to the Government will be Fair and Reasonable: The Battle Creek VAMC installed the existing Fire Detection and Alarm System several years ago. Each Building on station is connected to the system, and the system reports to the Fire Station and Police Station. Because the existing system is proprietary, no other sources are available to supply devices that will communicate with the existing system.
8. Description of the Market Research Conducted and the Results, or a Statement of the Reasons Market Research Was Not Conducted:
Market Research was not conducted, See paragraph 7.
9. Any Other Facts Supporting the Use of Other than Full and Open Competition:
Adding different systems may void any warranties, will affect performance, and may hinder patient/resident/employee safety.
10. Listing of Sources that Expressed, in Writing, an Interest in the Acquisition: See Section 9 above.
11. A Statement of the Actions, if any, the Agency May Take to Remove or Overcome any Barriers to Competition before Making subsequent acquisitions for the supplies or services required:
Continued sole source use Siemens' systems for all facility Fire Detection and Alarm Systems. Changing the system at this point would require changing every building on station. It is necessary that any new components and devices communicate with the existing system. The Engineering/Projects sections are researching alternative systems. As stated above, a project to replace the existing system will be costly and further research is needed to determine the feasibility.
12. Requirements Certification: I certify that the requirement outlined in this justification is a Bona Fide Need of the Department of Veterans Affairs and that the supporting data under my cognizance, which are included in the justification, are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Fred C. Vollmerhausen
Chief of Projects
Battle Creek VAMC

4-3-13

Date

13. Approvals in accordance with FAR 6.304 This part if filled out by Contracting Staff as part of the Justification

- a. **Contracting Officer's Certification (required):** I certify that the foregoing justification is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Scott

Name
Brennan

Title

Facility

Digitally signed by Scott Brennan
DN: c=US, cn=Scott Brennan,
o=Network Contracting Office,
ou=VISN Date
Reason: I have reviewed this document
Date: 2013.05.02 07:49:28 -04'00'

- b. **NCM/PCM (Required \$3K and above):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

Deborah Barber

Name
Network Contract Manager
VISN/PCA X

5/2/13

Date

Title
Facility

- c. **SAO (If over 500K):** I certify the justification meets requirements for other than full and open competition.

N/A

Name
Director
Service Area Office, East

N/A

Date

- d. **VHA HCA Review and Approval:** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and recommend approval (if over \$10million) or approve (\$500K to 10 million) for other than full and open competition.

N/A

Name
Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer
VHA Head of Contracting Activity (HCA)

N/A

Date

- e. **VA Deputy Senior Procurement Executive Approval (over \$10 million but not exceeding \$50 million):** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and approve for other than full and open competition.

N/A

C. FORD HEARD
Deputy Senior Procurement Executive (DSPE)
Office of Acquisition and Logistics
Department of Veterans Affairs

N/A

Date

- f. **VHA Senior Procurement Executive Approval (over \$50 million):** I have reviewed the foregoing justification and find it to be complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and approve for other than full and open competition.

N/A

Jan R. Frye
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics
Senior Procurement Executive (SPE)
Department of Veterans Affairs

N/A

Date